

Commandos attack Israeli convoy

TEL AVIV (R) — Commandos ambushed an Israeli convoy near Tyre in southern Lebanon Sunday, wounding one soldier, the army said. The commandos opened fire with light arms, a spokesman said. Israeli troops returned the fire and launched a search for the attackers. A recent upsurge in attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon has forced the army to take stringent security measures and vehicles crossing the border travel only in convoys accompanied by armed troops.

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Arafat to visit Malaysia after PNC meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will visit Malaysia soon after the Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting on Feb. 14, PLO representative Ahmad Al-Farar told reporters Sunday. Mr. Ahmad said he would discuss the visit with Arafat when he attends the PNC session in Algiers. No date has been fixed.

Kuwait to buy 12 Mirage fighters

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is to buy 12 advanced versions of the French-manufactured Mirage F1-C fighter aircraft, the Kuwait News Agency reported. The air force already has 18 F1-C planes in service.

Turkey to buy oil from Iran

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will buy five billion tonnes of oil from Iran this year, Energy and Technology Minister Fahri Ilkel said Sunday before leaving for an official visit to Iran. The minister said during his visit he would sign the \$1.1 billion oil agreement and also expected to sign another agreement to bring natural gas by pipeline from Iran. Iraq and the Soviet Union have also shown interest in supplying Turkey with natural gas, which it does not use at present.

Canada, Japan to strengthen ties

TOKYO (R) — Prime Ministers Pierre Trudeau of Canada and Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan agreed Sunday to strengthen relations between their countries, government sources said. They said the agreement came during a two-hour dinner meeting hosted by Mr. Nakasone shortly after the Canadian prime minister arrived from Manila on a four-day visit. The sources reported that Mr. Trudeau, first Western leader to meet Mr. Nakasone since his election last November, had expressed the hope that Canada could play a greater role in the Pacific. Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Nakasone are due to hold talks Monday which are expected to focus on the world economy, East-West tension, bilateral relations and South East Asia.

Afghan general defects to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A major-general from Afghanistan's army medical corps has defected to neighbouring Pakistan, state-run Radio Pakistan reported Sunday. The radio identified the general as Naik Mohammad Aziz and said he was a doctor but gave no further details. Two Afghan army brigadiers and two senior secret police officials defected to Pakistan in December, declaring sympathy with the Muslim guerrillas fighting government and Soviet troops in their country.

West German Greens agree on mixed programme

SINDELFLINGEN, W. Germany (R) — The radical ecologist Green Party, on the threshold of election to the West German parliament, Sunday agreed on a mixed programme of nuclear disarmament, job creation and ecological reform. After a grueling nine-hour debate, 650 party delegates at a special pre-election congress in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, thrashed out a 40-page programme proposing sharp tax rises for higher income earners, radical cuts in defence spending and a ban on nuclear energy. The programme, entitled "working with a purpose, living in solidarity," said more than a million new jobs would be created through "ecological investment," such as the setting up of conservation projects.

Lebanon expects slow pace in withdrawal talks

BEIRUT (R) — Despite progress on an agenda, Lebanon expects slow going when substantive talks start Monday on withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and future relations between the two countries.

Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. delegations needed six rounds of negotiations held alternately in Lebanon and Israel, before reaching an agreement on an agenda last Thursday.

Monday's session, at the coastal resort of Khalde just south of Beirut, will be the first entirely devoted to the content of the agenda.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, who returned to the Middle East last week, met Lebanese leaders in Beirut Saturday and then went to Israel. His message to both countries, according to press reports here, was that President Reagan wanted to see the talks move ahead rapidly.

The Lebanese government, through state-run Beirut Radio, has cautioned against excessive optimism, and sources close to the talks said they anticipated hard bargaining over many of the points at issue.

To avoid disputes over which subject should have priority, the agenda agreement provided for several topics to be discussed concurrently by sub-committees.

The topics are: Termination of the state of war, security arrangements, a framework for mutual relations, a programme of complete withdrawals, and possible guarantees.

Lebanon has appointed overall delegation chief Antoine Fattal to head its team on ending the state of war with Israel. The team on mutual relations will be headed by

IRA kill Irish judge in Northern Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Two Irish nationalist gunmen stepped out of a crowd of churchgoers Sunday and shot dead one of Northern Ireland's few Catholic judges.

Judge William Doyle, 56, was killed on the steps of St. Bridget's Catholic Church in south Belfast as worshippers emerged after mass. A 72-year-old woman was seriously injured.

A priest rushed from the church and, kneeling in a pool of blood beside the dying judge, administered the last rites.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which opposes British rule in Northern Ireland and draws its guerrillas from the province's Roman Catholic minority, claimed responsibility in a telephone call to a local radio station.

The judge was shot because he "played a key part in the British government's repressive occupation regime," the IRA said.

An eyewitness said: "The judge was walking down the steps of the church to his car."

"There were hundreds of people around. A man stepped out from the crowd in front of him and started shooting, at point blank range into his chest and stomach."

Police said they were convinced two gunmen were involved. The killers escaped by car.

Judge Doyle was the third Northern Ireland Judge to be killed by republican guerrillas in the province's long-running political and sectarian strife.

Mr. Nakasone, who took office in November, has steered his government through tariff cuts and measures to open the Japanese market to U.S. exports, increased defence spending and announced a policy that would give Japanese military technology to the United States.

"We have been observing with very great interest the energetic manner in which Nakasone has approached his job in his first six weeks in office," a senior administration official told reporters.

He said Mr. Nakasone's recent visit to South Korea, with which Japan has long had chequered relations, had contributed to the goal of stability in the region.

"What all this adds up to is that Nakasone has gotten off to a good start," the official said.

Mr. Nakasone arrives Monday for a three-day visit and meets President Reagan on Tuesday.

In spite of the favourable reception in Washington to Mr.

U.S. approves steps taken by Nakasone

WASHINGTON (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone meets President Reagan this week after taking political and economic steps that have won the approval of U.S. officials.

Mr. Nakasone, who took office in November, has steered his government through tariff cuts and measures to open the Japanese market to U.S. exports, increased defence spending and announced a policy that would give Japanese military technology to the United States.

U.S. trade representative William Brock has welcomed the Japanese efforts to ease trade friction with the United States but has expressed concern that no U.S. telecommunications sales have been made to Japan two years after an agreement on such sales was concluded.

Beef and citrus imports, among the toughest trade issues between the two countries, are not dealt with in Japan's trade liberalization.

"The recent market opening measures are only a step towards the much more extensive action by Japan that we believe is necessary," the official said.

He said Japanese curbs on car exports to the United States, which American officials believe should be extended for a third year, would not be negotiated in Washington because such action must be taken on Tokyo's own initiative.



Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko delivers a speech to the press upon arrival at Bonn (AP wirephoto)

Gromyko starts visit to W. Germany

BONN (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived Sunday for talks with which West German leaders hope will clarify recent Kremlin proposals on nuclear missile cuts.

Mr. Gromyko's visit, the first to the West by a Soviet leader since President Leonid Brezhnev died in November, seems certain to be dominated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) plans to start deploying 572 U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in

Europe in December.

Soviet sources said Mr. Gromyko would brief West German officials on Kremlin chief Yuri Andropov's offer to reduce Moscow's medium-range missiles in Europe if the NATO plans are scrapped.

All 108 of the Pershing-2 missiles, which can reach Soviet territory in 10 minutes, would be sited in West Germany.

With two months to go before the West German elections, in

which nuclear arms will be a major issue, there is wide interest in Mr. Gromyko's two-day visit.

Defence Minister Manfred Woerner told the newspaper Welt Am Sonntag an interview published Sunday that Bonn would listen carefully to Moscow's proposals.

"Mr. Andropov's proposals...leave many questions open and we must wait to see if Mr. Gromyko carries them any further," Mr. Woerner said.

Khaddam delivers message to Fahd

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Sunday received Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It gave no details of the talks. Mr. Khaddam had arrived in Riyadh earlier Sunday at the start of a five-nation Gulf tour.

This follows visits by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz to Iraq and Syria last week in an attempt to improve relations between the two countries.

These reached a low ebb last year when Syria, which supports Iran in the 28-month-old Gulf war, closed its borders with Iraq and stopped the flow of Iraqi crude oil through pipelines across Syrian territory.

Mr. Khaddam was the latest Arab leader to visit the Gulf in a flurry of Arab consultations on issues including the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East problem.

King Hussein also arrived in Riyadh Sunday from Baghdad and Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi was due in Kuwait after visiting Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Qatar from Iraq Saturday night, left Sunday for Damascus after briefing Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani on his recent visit to Moscow and other Arab issues.

Algerian Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Kader Ibn Qassi flew to Bahrain Sunday with a message from Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim to his counterpart, Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa.

But union confidence was rocked when Agostino Mariani, a leading official of the Socialist UIL union, was bar-

Arafat heads PLO meeting in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee opened a meeting here Sunday night, headed by chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinian News Agency WAFA said it was to prepare for a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), a parliament-in-exile, scheduled to start in Algiers on Feb. 14.

Mr. Arafat arrived here Sunday from Qatar to head the committee meeting.

They said the meeting would review Mr. Arafat's talks in Moscow last week with the new Soviet leadership and in Jordan as well as developments in the Middle East as a whole.

The PLO has an estimated 6,000 commandos in Lebanon and will be affected by Lebanese-Israeli talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country which get under way in earnest Monday following an agenda agreement last Thursday.

Despite friction between Mr. Arafat and Syria, this is his sixth visit to Damascus since he and thousands of PLO commandos withdrew from Beirut last August

In the interview, Mr. Arafat warned of an imminent Israeli aggression on the Bekaa Valley in Central Lebanon.

Jordanian-Palestinian relations are strong and are continuously being bolstered and cemented, Mr. Arafat added.

He told the Qatari newspaper Al Arab that his recent talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow were successful and covered all aspects of the Palestine problem and the Middle East issue.

During the national liberation war he performed various important military and political functions.

After the war he held high party, governmental and political offices in the Republic and Federation. From April 1945 to 1954 he was prime minister of the People's Republic of Croatia.

Dr. Bakaric was elected deputy to all the post-war sessions of the Federal Assembly. He was a

member of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Science.

Dr. Bakaric has received the Order of People's Hero, the 1941 Partisan Memorial Badge and other high Yugoslav and foreign decorations.

two Beirut refugee camps.

Last November, the commission warned nine Israeli military and civilian leaders, including Mr. Begin and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, that they could be harmed by its findings.

The nine were allowed to present new evidence and cross-examine witnesses. At Sunday's closed session, lawyers for six of them summed up their arguments.

Yugoslav vice president dies

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Vice President of Yugoslavia Vladimir Bakaric died Sunday at the age of 70.

Dr. Bakaric was born in 1912 in Velika Gorica near Zagreb.

He completed the Law Faculty in 1935 in Zagreb and two years later earned his doctor of science degree. He joined the revolutionary workers' movement while still a student.

In 1940 he became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Croatia.

During the national liberation war he performed various important military and political functions.

The commentators say the union federation has lost support from workers faced with rising unemployment, but could benefit from a new mood of shop-floor revolt.

Many Italian workers face thinner pay packets from next month because the industrial employers' confederation, Confindustria, has ordered its members to revoke the existing "scala mobile" (escalator) system of indexed wage rises.

Workers will also be hit by government spending cuts and tax increases intended to save 15,000 billion lire (\$1 billion) this year.

The issue was among those which prompted a split in West Germany's Socialist Party last year, leading to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's resignation and a change of government.

The American bishops' stand on nuclear arms echoed a growing groundswell of concern about war in the United States and public opposition to President Reagan's plans to modify the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal.

If their stand is endorsed at the two-day meeting here, the new U.S. chief negotiator at Geneva, Kenneth Adelman, will face added pressure to produce results.

Mr. Adelman, reputedly a hardliner against the Kremlin, replaces Eugene Rostow, sacked by President Reagan last week.

7 million Italians to strike against new taxes

ROME (R) — Leaders of Italy's main trade union federation appealed to their members for solidarity Sunday, as signs of dissent arose ahead of a general strike on Tuesday to protest at government austerity measures and stalled wage talks.

The CGIL-CISL-UIL federation expects seven million workers to strike against new taxes, unemployment and what it calls the intransigence of the Union Federation's pact and industrial employers' confederation.

Speaking on National Radio Sunday UIL leader Giorgio Benvenuto called for renegotiation of the Union Federation's pact and attacked "minorities within the movement."

The danger of dissent was also underlined by Luciano Lama, leader of the Communist CGIL-Union, who condemned the

expected to represent the Italian church.

Church sources in Washington said a representative of the French bishops' conference would attend but no Vatican confirmation was available.

Pope John Paul made his call for progress on arms control talks in an address to the Vatican diplomatic corps Saturday he said: "The concerned parties must make reciprocal efforts to go through the stages of disarmament together, trying to reach the maximum possible reductions without delay."

His speech followed an international meeting on nuclear arms in Vienna involving scientists and clergy of all faiths, organised by Austrian Cardinal Franz Koenig.

The Catholic bishops meeting

Qaboos briefed on withdrawal talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Lebanese parliamentarian Louis Abu Sharaf briefed Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said on the current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency reported from Muscat. Mr. Abu Sharaf, who arrived in Oman Saturday night, conveyed a verbal message to the Omani leader from President Amin Gemayel the agency added. The parliamentarian is at the head of one of three Lebanese missions set up to explain the Lebanese position to Arab leaders.

King Hussein briefed President Reagan on his recent talks with President Reagan and his views regarding the future stage and coordination of Arab stands with the purpose of achieving a just and comprehensive Middle

HOME NEWS

Japanese firm to set up 7th power unit in Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese firm, C.Itoh and Company, was Sunday awarded a contract to supply, install and operate the seventh thermal power unit at Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa.

The agreement for the JD 15 million project was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour on behalf of Jordan and the director of C.Itoh and Company.

Under the terms of the agreement, the company will supply, install and operate the unit, capable of producing 66,000

kilowatts of electricity.

The project is expected to be completed by 1985 and when it starts production the overall capacity of the thermal power station will amount to 397,000 kilowatts, which is estimated to cover the needs of the areas supplied by the station until 1986.

By 1986 another two thermal power stations with a capacity of 130,000 kilowatts each, will be operational in Aqaba.



Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour (third from left) and the director of C.Itoh and Company (to Mr. Asfour's right) Sunday sign an agreement under which the Japanese firm will supply, install

and operate the seventh thermal power unit at Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa (Petra photo)

Refugee camp in Zarqa to have improved public services

ZARQA (Petra) — The Palestinian refugee camp in Zarqa will be supplied with electric power, health and water services on the same level as those offered to various other Zarqa districts, according to Zarqa District Governor Salem Al Qudah.

He was speaking after a meeting held at the camp Sunday to discuss ways of improving public services in the camp's residents.

The Technical and Administrative Department in Zarqa will take a comprehensive study for improving public services to villages around Zarqa. Mr. Qudah said.

Work to begin early 1984 on Hamzeh Medical Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Construction work of the Prince Hamzeh Medical Centre is due to start early next year after all designs have been prepared for the project, a Health Ministry spokesman said here Sunday.

The spokesman said that the JD 23.5 million project is expected to be completed in three years and will include a 550-bed hospital and a special section to treat cases like drug addiction.

The centre, the first of its kind in Jordan, will also include a blood bank, a section for forensic medicine, another for treatment by radioactive processes as well as a helipad, the spokesman said.

The Ministry of Health, he added, Sunday received designs for the project's second stage.

5-member gang of robbers caught

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman police Sunday announced the arrest of a five-member gang of robbers aged between 18 and 23, who committed several break-ins and robberies in Amman and Zarqa regions.

A police statement said that the gang had stolen a car, five video sets worth JD 4,000 and robbed stores for valuable goods which they sold at cheap prices. The gang members have been referred to judicial authorities for trial, the statement said.

Rising road accidents call for strict law enforcement

Abdul Rahman Abbushi
Al Ra'i

AMMAN — Road accidents and increasing number of casualties resulting from them, is becoming a subject of wide-scale discussion and is being considered by the highest legislative authorities in Jordan.

As the issue is being widely discussed in its draft form, Al Ra'i sees it appropriate to explore real dimensions of the problem, including a search for actual rates of accidents and casualties.

He also aims at clarifying the present points of law dealing with punishments against licensed and non-licensed drivers responsible for causing accidents and new regulations proposed in the draft traffic law, to see how currently they deal with current situations.

Statistical source for the analysis is the Public Security Department.

Comparing accidents caused by vehicles driven by licensed and non-licensed drivers in June, July and August 1982 with those in the same period of 1981 we arrived at the following figures.

A close look at the above-mentioned data indicates that the non-licensed drivers bear responsibility for nine to ten per cent of the total number of accidents. This fact makes us wonder whether the severity of punishment for non-licensed drivers has been sufficiently effective to curb accidents. We also wonder if the law were scrupulously applied in all such cases.

Moreover, it is still to be asked whether the kind of punishment in the proposed traffic law will be effective enough to reduce the size of road accidents in the country.

The present law considers non-licensed driving a Group A offence, which calls for the offenders under such group to face an imprisonment sentence up to three months.

A follow up of non-licensed offenders' trials indicates that the regular punishment has been a one-week imprisonment. The new law also considers this offence Group A with the amendment that punishment for such an offence should not be less than one-week imprisonment and not more than three months, or fining the offender a sum which may range between JD 30 and JD 100. The punishment for this offence, according to the proposed

law, has been given a floating character that makes it less effective, relying on the indecisiveness of the legislator regarding the imprisonment sentence. It is fair to say that any member of a self-respecting society should not allow to let his or her vehicle into the hands of a non-licensed driver, so that no one gets the opportunity to drive a car before getting sufficiently trained for it.

We refer to a widely-known case of a driver still mourned on newspapers' pages who lost his life after a tragic accident caused by a 15-year-old boy driving a car at a speed of 100 miles per hour. The accident did not take place at any other spot than a traffic light.

The disastrous outcome of this incident urge us to appeal to four sections of the community for reducing the danger it exposes against people's lives. We to fathers and mothers to have compassion on their children's lives by not allowing it to happen that they sit behind a steering wheel before they are ready and licensed for it.

We secondly appeal to the legislative authorities to tighten the hand of law on non-licensed drivers. The third party we appeal to is the traffic police, which we hope will not treat such an offence leniently, and turn those who commit it to the court for trial.

We finally request judges who consider such offences to sentence those who commit them to the maximum penalty instead of a minimum one.

A real problem is facing our developing community, and it is everyone's responsibility to see to it that every effort is exerted to root it out.



Statistics indicate a steady increase in the number of road accidents caused by vehicles driven by non-licensed drivers

Month	1981		1982	
	Licensed	Non-licensed	Licensed	Non-licensed
January	1636	146	1735	151
February	1676	178	1880	165
March	2028	176	2134	187
April	2064	187	2090	207
Total	7404	687	7839	710

Jordan sends relief supplies to N. Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two trucks carrying relief supplies for victims of the recent earthquake in North Yemen left Amman Sunday by road for Sanaa. The trucks are loaded with foodstuffs and other supplies including clothes contributed by Jordanian organisations and individuals in response to a call by the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Ooura said that the shipment will be handed over to the North Yemeni Red Crescent Society for distribution to the people affected by the earthquake.

Last month a 17-member Jordanian medical team flew to North Yemen to render assistance to the victims. Also a campaign was launched by the JNRCS to collect contributions to the victims.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday plants a sapling to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

Damascus meeting discusses atlas on Arab water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-member delegation returned to Amman Sunday after attending a four-day meeting in Damascus to discuss the compilation of an atlas featuring all water resources in the Arab World.

The participants discussed ways of preparing the atlas, which will show the location of surface and underground water resources in Jordan along with similar information about other parts of the Arab World, according to the delegation head Ahmad Kilani.

He said that the proposed atlas will be available for geography students, providing them with information about the distribution of water sources and giving details on arid regions as well.

Work on the Jordanian section of the atlas is expected to be completed early next year, Mr. Kilani said.

Chamber of Industry plans meetings of industrialists

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry announced Sunday that it plans to organise meetings for representatives of various Jordanian industries to look into means of developing their trades.

According to the chamber's director, Ali Dajani, the meetings, he explained, is in implementation of recommendations taken by a seminar on production, which the chamber held in December under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

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Breakfast-time television makes debut in Britain, gauds on rivals

By Leslie Dowd
Reuter

LONDON — Breakfast-time television, long established in the United States, arrives in Britain next week and promises a lively ratings battle between rival networks.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Monday will be the first in Europe to launch a morning programme of news and comment, and its commercial television rival will follow with its own show on Feb. 1.

Britons are among the world's keenest viewers, with family life heavily influenced by "the box,"

and indications are that initial audience could be as high as five million, only about a tenth of Britain's 46 million viewers but encouraging if it could be maintained.

At 6:30 on Monday, as Britons clamber out of bed to face another working week, the face of amiable veteran presenter Frank Bough will launch the BBC's show, called Breakfast Time.

The rival show starting on Feb. 1 will begin half an hour earlier at 6 o'clock. Leading the host roster of local big names is international television celebrity David Frost, possibly even better known in the United States than he is in his native Britain.

A ratings battle is guaranteed as TV-AM, the specially formed company, fights for profits on the franchise it won to operate breakfast television, as it has come to be called in Britain, on a commercial basis.

TV-AM has a budget of £16.5 million (\$26 million) a year or £14,000 (\$22,000) an hour and is aiming for an audience of three million.

"We're confident we'll get it," said a spokesman at the futuristic high-technology studios TV-AM has built in London's trendy but rundown Camden town district.

"We all see breakfast television as a gamble, an experiment and a

challenge," David Frost, a major TV-AM shareholder, said two years ago when it won the franchise.

"It is the only frontier left in British television."

The BBC breakfast Time show will budget only £3,000 (\$4,740) an hour, barely a quarter of TV-AM's, but has the backing of the BBC's huge world news network.

BBC television does not carry commercials and is financed out of the £46 (\$73) licence fee charged to all households with colour television receivers.

BBC managing director Aubrey Singer insisted the BBC show was

not on trial but "...will run as long as the BBC exists."

Breakfast television got off to a slow start in the United States in the 1950s but has long been a major showcase for politicians, businessmen and others eager to reach the public.

Despite expressions of confidence, the industry knows it could face an uphill battle to win acceptance for breakfast television but is confident of success.

The Japanese have had it for two years and received it "phenomenally well," according to a TV-AM spokesman who noted about 37 percent of viewers watch it there. In Australia it is also doing well.

Italian television starts transmissions at 8 a.m. but is not regarded by British television executives as being true breakfast television as it is based on quizzes, Opera and similar non-news items.

TV-AM has a serious immediate problem, however. It will open without any revenue at all unless a dispute between actors and advertising agencies over fees for work in commercials shown on breakfast television is settled soon.

TV-AM is not directly involved in the complicated dispute but it will not be able to carry revenue-earning commercials until it is solved.

Both the BBC and independent television have opted for a relaxed approach characterised by BBC Breakfast Time editor Ron Neil as "informative but informal."

The BBC plans to mix news and guest comment with reports from resident experts on such topics as cooking, gardening, keep-fit and even astrology. A clock will grace a corner of the screen for time checks.

"I'll be getting up at three o'clock in the morning — or trying to," confided Selina Scott, who will join Frank Bough in hosting the show at an annual salary of £40,000 (\$63,000), according to published reports.

TV-AM has an even more impressive line-up of personalities who are household names in Britain. Apart from Mr. Frost it has the country's leading chat show host Michael Parkinson and news presenters Anna Ford and Angela Rippon.

TV-AM plans to open with an hour of news to be followed at seven o'clock with a show called "Good Morning Britain." It will aim for a relaxed atmosphere with guests dropping in to chat rather than staging set-piece interviews.

TV-AM's chairman is Peter Jay, son-in-law of former Prime Minister James Callaghan and British ambassador in Washington until 1979.

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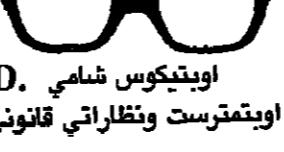
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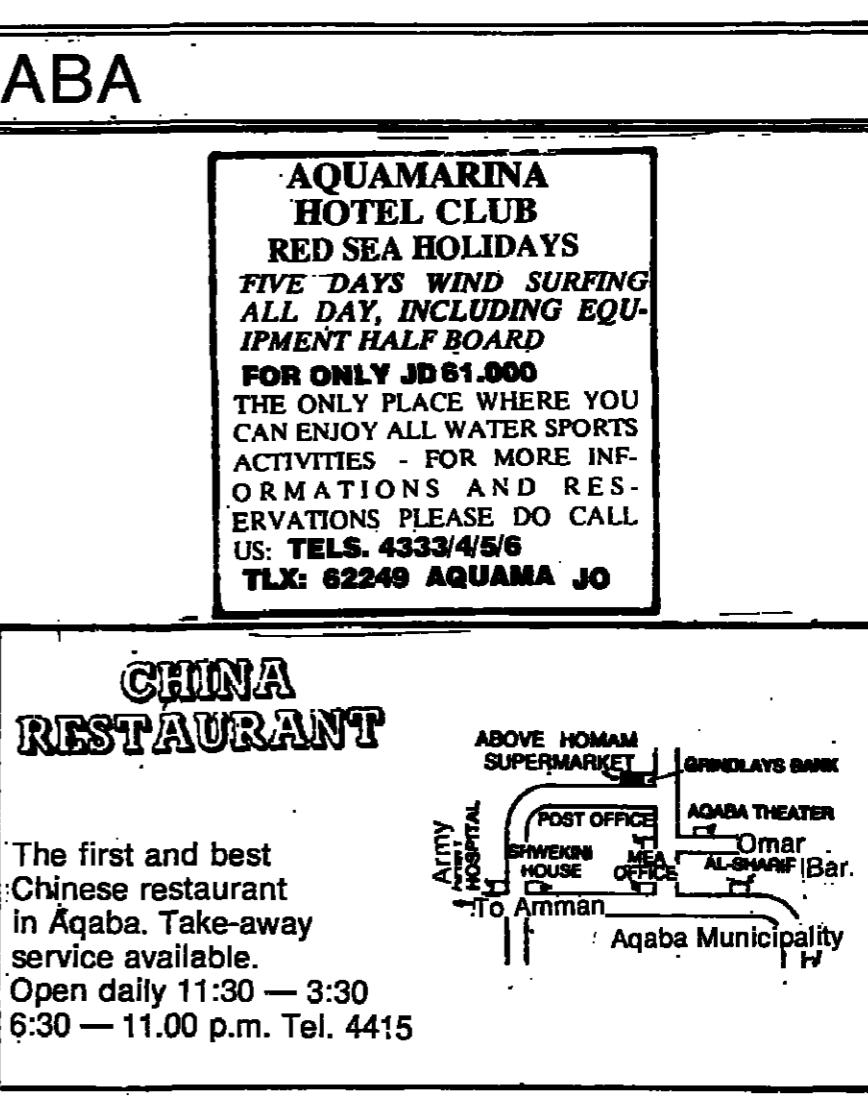
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Time for reflection

WHILE we prepare to enter a new era in which much of the Middle East future will be decided, there are a few weeks left for reflection and contemplation.

The peace process that is being engineered today is different from earlier attempts at reaching a solution to the age-old Arab-Israeli conflict, in many respects. Major players have changed, consequently outlooks; the reality on the ground has apparently become uncertain and unfamiliar, though not yet too rough for manoeuvre and movement; the rush for higher stakes in the Middle East race for time and history has reached a new pitch; the times are different and the going is tough.

Things are also different in that we now have a sort of deadline to meet. By March, the peace process will have taken one turn only: to peace, or to political upheavals and therefore to a new wave of uncertainty in this part of the world and elsewhere. Until then, there is a lot to think about and contemplate.

Jordan and Jordanians are for peace, so are the Palestinians. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, being the sole and legitimate

representative of the Palestinian people, is faced with the dilemma of having to play its full role from behind the scenes. The rest of the Arab World are watching, hardly caring to be objective about and involved in the difficult choice Jordanians and Palestinians have to make, soon.

Peace is never a difficult choice. The question is the price you have to pay for it. Where we Jordanians and Palestinians stand today, there seems to be no sure answer, and hence the need for political courage and sense of history to make the right decision.

As we await the outcome of the Palestine National Council meeting next month on whether to join the peace process, we call on the Palestinian leadership to spare no effort in rising to its historic responsibility and adopt clear-cut, practical solutions that will put an end to Israel's arrogance and expansionist policies once and for all. This we do with full confidence that the just Palestinian cause will be strengthened and better understood with each step forward Palestinians and Jordanians decide to take.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iraq -- a strategic depth

The recent visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Iraq is an expression of Jordan's national commitment, and the King's talks with President Saddam Hussein are in full compliance with the common Arab effort for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Iraq has committedly participated in all battles aimed at preserving the Arab Nation's interests, and is now defending Arab land and men against assaults on their existence and well-being. The present stand by Iraq testifies to its high sense of national responsibility, and complete recognition of the imminent dangers threatening the Palestinian territories and cause, which need to be freed from Israeli annexationists in time before it is too late for such a noble task.

Under the present extraordinary circumstances, Iraq has a full right to be notified of the latest developments regarding Arab efforts for peace in

of Arab Nation

the region, and those directly involved in the process find it their duty to openly acquaint the Iraqi brethren with details of such developments. The King's talks with President Hussein are in this context, and so does the recent visit to Baghdad by Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat.

The Iraqi role in promoting joint Arab peace efforts is an important one. Iraq has historically been involved in the pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist aggression on the Arab Nation, and its participation in the peace efforts, being a strategic depth to Arab struggle, will add new weight to the Arab position in the peace process.

In the light of all such basic facts, the King's recent talks in Baghdad can be expected to strengthen the common Arab stand, and crystallise a strong Arab potential.

Al Dustour: Iraqi potentials vital to Arab Nation

His Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to Baghdad was no surprise. The King had lately pointed out that the visit is a necessity in the light of his great concern for ending the Iranian aggression against Iraq, and putting an end to the Iraqi preoccupation with defending its territory as a result of Iran's persistence in continuing its assault.

Iraq has invariably been an active participant in defending Arab territories, and facing threats to Palestinian soil and rights. Had the Iranian leadership responded positively to Islamic and international mediation efforts to bring the war to an end, Iraq would have been able to take part effectively in the defence of Lebanon, when the outrageous Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place.

The King's visit to Iraq, and his talks with President Saddam Hussein come after the Arab League

seven-member committee's visits to Paris, Moscow and Peking and the King's talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington, during which the King conveyed the Arab League's peace proposals unanimously agreed upon at Fez to senior officials in these capitals. The visit also follows new developments for ending the Gulf war, among which a proposed Algerian mediation effort is one.

The liberation of Iraqi potentials, now absorbed by the continuing Iranian aggression, will certainly improve the general Arab position, which is now suffering a tragic setback. A lot of Arab issues need to be countered effectively, and timely answers to challenges are necessary. What is done now will definitely affect the interests of future Arab generations either positively or to the worse.

West German FDP is fighting for survival

This train stops here

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

COLOGNE. West Germany — As the blue and yellow campaign train currying West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher pulled into Cologne station, a jazz band struck up "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In."

But a platform sign gave what was perhaps a more apt commentary on the election prospects of Mr. Genscher's ailing Free Democratic Party (FDP): "Do not climb aboard this train ter- minutes here."

The small liberal party, badly battered by its change of coalition partners in Bonn last year, was off the starting blocks when campaigning for the March 6 general election began this week.

"We have the most ground to catch up," said FDP General Secretary Irmgard Adam-Schwaetzer. "This is undoubtedly the most difficult campaign in our history."

Opinion polls show that the election were held now, the FDP liberals would be cast out of parliament with little more than three per cent of the vote.

That grim prospect was tched into Mr. Genscher's furrowed brow as he tried out his standard campaign speech for the first time over pea-soup and beer in a Cologne beer hall.

The foreign minister knows that this time he and the Free Democrats are fighting for political survival.

The most remarkable thing about Mr. Genscher's speech was what he did not say. There was not a word about his switch from a coalition with former Social Democratic (SPD) Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to a government pact with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) last autumn.

Accused by the Social Democrats of treachery, the shift deeply split the liberals. Four deputies and more than 10,000 members quit the FDP and it crashed to a series of humiliating defeats in regional elections.

Mr. Genscher is haunted by the treachery charge. As he entered the beer hall he was flanked by a group of drinkers at the bar shouting "traitor."

Inside the welcome was warmer. About 300 mainly elderly people listened in polite silence to his call for the families of West Germany's immigrant "guest workers" to be treated fairly, but they erupted into stormy applause when he defended the new government's decision to make students repay their grants once they begin to earn a living.

Mt. Genscher reminded his audience, as he spoke about East-West disarmament talks and

DE FACTONOMICS

Why maximise smokers' welfare?

By T.A. Jaber

The National Consultative Council (NCC) last week debated the proposed government measure to allow importation of foreign cigarettes subject to customs tariffs. The Economic Committee of the NCC argued against this proposal on a number of grounds to which I shall refer in this commentary.

Let me first state certain facts about the cigarette industry in Jordan before I present my personal opinion. There is only one firm now producing cigarettes in the East Bank of Jordan. It has useful linkages with other national economic activities, for example, the purchase of local tobacco is done at a given price fixed by a board in which the government is represented. According to 1982 estimates, more than 2,000 farmers in Jordan make their living out of this cash crop. Local tobacco has to be blended with imported inputs to ensure a given taste.

The company employs 600 workers with possible increases when increased exports are guaranteed. Its total production amounts to JD 28 million of which the government collects about JD 18 million in production fees.

The company's production has for years been enough to meet local consumption with a surplus for export to the Arab Gulf countries. Such exports last year gave about JD 6 million in foreign exchange.

May I state, at this point, that this issue has caught my attention not only for the narrow specifics of a given industry or a company. I do claim neutrality as a non-smoker and base my opinion on the experience of other developing countries in the area of trade protectionism.

Thus, I agree with the conclusion of the Economic Committee that the proposed government measure will have a net negative impact on the cigarette industry in Jordan and on the national economy in general. Its expected positive effects, if any, are questionable on the following arguments:

1. A conflict of interest usually arises in most developing countries regarding import policy between commission-agents or importers on the one hand and industrialists on the other. The interest of the first group is to maximise imports from abroad particularly in their line or brand. Through

this, they pocket sizeable profits as commission and more income as wholesalers.

The industrialists risk their capital and energy to establish new projects in a developing country hoping for protection from more mature and refined foreign companies. They look for the government to protect their products through banning similar imports or imposing high tariffs.

The best way out of this conflict of interest is to encourage traders and importers to gradually move their activities towards industrialisation. In Jordan, we already have examples of such transformation.

Since Jordan's domestic market is small, and the cost of local inputs, including labour, land and energy is relatively high, our overall policy should favour protectionism if our industrialisation process is to survive and expand.

2. Our trade deficit is increasing and has reached alarming magnitudes. Our imports are estimated in 1982 at JD 1.200 million while our exports are about a quarter of that. Thus, our trade policy should aim at rationalising imports to serve our economic

development objectives which include enhancing our local production for import-substitution and exports.

3. The world economy suffers now from a severe recession which has been prolonged by the inability of large economies to apply proper policies within a healthy framework of international co-operation. Industries in the rich countries are pressuring their governments for more protectionism on the one hand, and trying hard to compete in other markets on the other. We should be aware of these developments and formulate relevant policies in favour of our industries and against dumping and cut-throat competition.

4. The conventional argument against protecting local industries is two-fold: (a) that protection creates monopolies which can dictate their prices, and (b) there is no inducement to improve the quality of their products. The argument goes on to say that in both instances the welfare of smokers, and they won government sympathy, new producers should be permitted to operate in Jordan. The answer should not be found in importation.

while the Jordanian Company is a monopoly, its prices are directly fixed by the government. Second, being capable of competing with other cigarette manufacturers in the Gulf markets gives a positive indication of the quality of the Company's products. Third, and most important, is the acknowledged fact that smoking is harmful to health. Accordingly, why should we think that we maximise the welfare of smokers by providing them with a wider choice?

5. Imposing tariff on imported cigarettes does not prevent smuggling. Rather it opens the distribution channels for it. The incentive for smuggling will be stronger the higher the tariff rate, while if the rate is low, then the cigarette industry will gradually suffer.

A proper trade policy, an industrialisation drive, welfare considerations and prevention of smuggling all call for protection of our own cigarette industry. In the meantime, if more varieties are desired by smokers, and they won government sympathy, new producers should be permitted to operate in Jordan. The answer should not be found in importation.

Corsica: Fight for independence

By Donald Forbes

AJACCIO, Corsica — People on the Mediterranean island of Corsica have grown accustomed to bombs in the dead of night, with the crash of rubble, the swirl of dust and the dazed terror of victims brutally roused from sleep. The attacks are made by a group of fanatical Corsican guerrillas, waging a bombing campaign which is intended to win the island's freedom from France.

The targets are mainly the homes and businesses of French settlers who have refused to pay revolutionary taxes levied by the guerrillas, and have ignored warnings by telephone and letter to get out of Corsica. For the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), France is a colonial power and its citizens are depriving Corsicans of their heritage.

The front, which represents Corsican nationalism in its most virulent form, has a short history but roots which go deep into a tradition of resistance to the 200-year-old link with France. Founded in 1976 and finally outlawed last week, the guerrillas are about to undergo their severest test.

Exasperated by 700 FLNC bomb attacks in Corsica last year, the government has ordered one of France's toughest policemen, Commissioner Robert Broussard, to tame the guerrillas. It is unclear how the FLNC, which police say numbers 200 active guerrillas, views the prospect of a confrontation with Mr. Broussard. The front has ducked out of sight in recent days amid signs of an internal power struggle.

According to informed sources, the struggle is between hardliners who want the violence to go on and to spread to the mainland, and moderates who want to switch to political action. The FLNC began

its wave of violence with fixed aims to which it has closely adhered. These include the installation of people's power in an independent Corsica which would appropriate "big colonial properties and tourist trusts". Its first spectacular onslaught was the occupation of Ajaccio airport in 1976 and the blowing-up of a Boeing 707 plane.

A regular pattern of daily bombings was established, together with a warning by the front that it would take lives if necessary.

Reform promises

In 1977, guerrillas armed with machine guns seized military posts near Bastia, tied its sentries to a tree and temporarily put out of action the security forces' communications in all of northern Corsica. Another attack the same year wrecked a broadcasting relay station and deprived the northern part of the island of television for three months.

Authorities said they had discovered contacts between the FLNC and other guerrilla groups including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which reportedly provided training facilities, the Irish Republican Army and the Spanish Basque separatist organisation ETA.

As the result of a crackdown by the government of former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, more than 50 members of the front were rounded up and jailed. The FLNC responded with a number of attacks in Paris, as a vicious circle of repression and retaliation was established. To break the mould, the new Socialist administration of President Francois Mitterrand set out in 1981 to conciliate nationalist opinion in Corsica with promises of reform and an amnesty for those in jail.

The FLNC in turn observed a

ceasefire ended last February with the realisation by the front that what Corsica secured from Paris would always fall short of the independence it desired. Former FLNC leader Yves Stella said: "In the end it doesn't matter whether the left or the right is in power. The colonial relationship between Corsica and France remains the same."

The resumed violence reached its peak at the end of the year with the attempted murder of a French settler, although the FLNC has not admitted responsibility.

French settlers, terrified by the bombing of homes, the threats against families and the degree of increasing, began to leave in increasing numbers. The sense of anarchy in Corsica was intensified by criminals using the FLNC's name and methods to extort money and settle scores of their own.

Police sources do not minimise the difficulty Mr. Broussard and his newly-strengthened police force will face in tackling the FLNC. The guerrillas have always profited from the patriotic complicity of other Corsicans though there is now widespread public weariness with their campaign.

Infiltration of the guerrilla ranks is almost impossible. Police sent from the mainland do not speak the Corsican dialect, while Corsican policemen are all known to the guerrillas and are quickly recognised. Police sources say the FLNC is well organised, operating in small, independent cells so the importance of individual arrests is minimised.

Nationalist feeling is especially strong among young people, who suffer the worst of Corsica's high unemployment. Authorities fear they will continue to provide easy recruits for the front if it chooses to fight on.

But the immediate prospect is for containable fighting on the Thai-Cambodian frontier between Vietnam-backed government forces and the coalition's guerrillas, along with haggling over the framework for an elusive political settlement.

After decades of war, which ended with the 1975 defeat of U.S.-backed governments in South Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, Indochina ranks low on the priorities list in Moscow and Washington, behind the Middle East, Afghanistan and East-West relations in Europe. Western analysts say.

With about 180,000 troops in Kampuchea and 40,000 in Laos, Vietnam dominates the region in fulfilment of an old ambition.

The Soviet-backed Communist government in Hanoi says the Kampuchean situation is irreversible and it will not withdraw while there is a threat from China.

Peking is arming 30,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, fighting alongside smaller forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk and the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) led by ex-Premier Son Sann.

But the three allies, whose

fighters are based along the Thai-Cambodian border, admit they have little hope of seizing power in Phnom Penh by force.

"We have always sought a political solution, because we are not strong enough militarily to drive out the Vietnamese forces," Son Sann said in a recent magazine interview.

The shape of a possible settlement, and how it might be achieved, has not yet emerged.

One potential spur to change is the Kremlin's avowed desire to normalise relations with China, which views Soviet support for Vietnam's military presence in Kampuchea as a major obstacle to a rapprochement.

If Moscow's top Asian priority is detente with Peking, continuing to support Vietnam in Kampuchea could hinder wider Soviet interests in Sino-Soviet talks due to resume next month.

They say Vietnam is prepared to negotiate on peripheral issues, such as border tension and a possible international conference on Kampuchea, but could only accept a closely allied Kampuchea free of Chinese influence.

In an apparent display of flexibility, Hanoi announced a partial troop withdrawal from Kampuchea last July. But Thai officials called it a sham in which combat units were merely rotated.

Hanoi concentrates most of its troops on its own northern border with China, where each side has accused the other of mounting attacks since the 1979 war.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, in optimistic mood, said in November there had been an effective ceasefire since August. But three weeks later Hanoi reported new clashes.



Did the Ancient Egyptians build on nature?

By Dr. Farouk Al Baz

The pyramids of Giza were already ancient, their origins shrouded in mystery, when Herodotus visited them about 450 B.C. Today, these colossal structures are around 4,500 years old, and yet we still ponder: Were they only tombs, or did they also function as geodetic markers, observatories or public works projects? And how is it that they are still standing, centuries after other man-made wonders of the ancient world have disappeared? The answer to that may be even older than the pyramids.

Imhotep started it all. He served as minister, adviser, physician and astronomer at the court of Djoser. Pharaoh of Egypt circa 2630 B.C. Imhotep was known as a healer and master sculptor, but, more important, he was the architect of the Step Pyramid at Saqqara.

Until the reign of Djoser, royal dwellings and tombs were built

primarily of sun-dried brick. Imhotep selected a site in the desert overlooking Memphis and began planning something more ambitious. He built a *masatba*, or tomb, of stone, about 26 feet high and 207 feet on each side. Upon it, with several modifications, he built five additions, each smaller than its predecessor. The result is a six-stepped structure, about 204 feet high, that resembles on the whole a pyramid.

Not long ago in Egypt, I pointed at a hill that looked similar to Imhotep's Step Pyramid. My companions from Ain Shams University in Cairo turned to the hill, which became visible only after climbing a 100-foot sand dune. Eyes squinting from the glare of the desert sun, but cameras clicking, we discussed the form of the hill. There was no good reason for its existence amid a sea of dunes.

After driving for half a day from the sprawling Siwa Oasis toward the Great Sand Sea, we had not expected any topographic

prominences. The terrain has been eroded to a plain by running water and desert winds.

As we continued our geological exploration near Siwa, we encountered other conical hills. These appear to have developed from mesaline elevations, which in turn separated from the large escarpment on the northern boundary of the Siwa depression.

And entry in my field note book says: "numerous conical and pyramidal hills; I wonder if the ancient Egyptians had studied such natural desert structures before deciding on the form of their towering monuments!"

Why not? The ancient Egyptians had left their mark throughout the Western Desert. In fact, the sound of the word desert itself came to us from the pronunciation of a hieroglyphic word via Latin.

The Egyptians of the past appear to have learned more about the desert than their modern counterparts. They mastered

desert exploration and exploitation of building materials. They combed the Eastern Desert and the Sinai for precious metals. No gold veins have been discovered there in modern times. Every known vein had been discovered long ago and worked first by the ancient Egyptians. Even the oldest known map is that of a gold mine in Wadi Hammamat, between the Nile at Qift and the Red Sea at Quseir.

"Damn good geologists"

Modern Egyptians are as impressed as anyone else when confronted with the extent of the ancients' knowledge of the desert.

"All the way out here to get a stone. It's incredible!" said Mahmoud El-Prince, governor of the New Valley province, who had joined one of our desert investigations in the bone-dry wasteland of the Southern Western Desert.

"How in the name of heaven did they find out about that tiny rock exposure in the middle of nothing?" added the team's archaeologist.

"By being damn good geologists, that's how," answered Bahay Issawi of the Geological Survey of Egypt.

This conversation took place at what is called the Chephren Quarries, more than 200 miles southwest of Aswan, in one of the driest, most hostile and featureless tracts of desert anywhere. From an exposure of rock that is only a few feet high, the ancient Egyptians mined a rock and carved it in the likeness of Chephren, the builder of the second largest pyramid at Giza. This mysteriously dark statue was found virtually intact in the Valley Temple of Chephren's pyramid complex at Giza.

The ancient Egyptians not only knew where things were in the desert but, I believe, realised that the shape they found were no accident. They must have wondered why — why, for example, is it that only tapered hills persist in the desert? Imhotep may have asked himself that question, as I did a few years ago. The great sage could have figured it out in no time at all. I had to work at it.

On one of a dozen journeys into the Egyptian desert, 100 kilometres west of Kharga Oasis, I saw three hills (right, top) looming in the distance in a mirror image of the pyramids of Giza. The sight heightened my curiosity. This was the windy season, when the wind carried enormous quantities of debris, redistributing it as it eroded obstacles in its way.

With a strong gust of wind, much fine dust was lifted from among the pebbles and sand grains on the desert surface. The wind hurled the dust toward one of the conical hills. With the first collision, the dusty wind rose swiftly upward as it whirled about the hill.

Eureka! The conical shape evades destruction by leading the wind up slope and funneling its erosive power to the peak where its energy dissipates in the air. Inhabitants of windy terrain must have learned this a long time ago. Images of conical or cone-topped structures that I have seen all over the world flashed in front of me: American Indian tepees; Bedouin

tents in the Sahara; dwellings and storage bins in the Rajasthan desert of northwest India; Mongolian and Kazak yurts in central Asia.

Unlike conical hills, the pyramids have sides. Why don't they erode to the least resistant, smooth form? Roundness may not be necessary. We encountered natural faceted hills deep in the Western Desert, and there are others at Lake Nasser. The pyramids of Giza exist in near perfect harmony with their environment. They pre-date the other Seven Wonders of the World by approximately 2,000 years, and yet they are the only one still standing. Had the ancients built their monuments in the shape of a cube, a pentagon or even a stadium, they would have been erased by the ravages of wind erosion long ago.

It makes sense, of course, to believe that the manmade structures were fashioned after natural forms, just as it makes sense that at least some of the pyramids were built over existing hills rather than up from flat ground. In his book *The Pyramids*, Ahmed Fakry states that a rocky knoll of unknown size underlies the Great Pyramid, and that a large natural stone outcropping cores the tomb of Queen Khent-kawes.

Origin of the Sphinx

Could the Sphinx reveal further knowledge? Its origins may even be more intriguing than we believe. Some scholars contend that the bulk from which the Sphinx was formed had been left by the quarrying for the Great Pyramid. But I favour another explanation. Let us imagine a "staff meeting" of the master architect of Chephren's pyramid. The sun has already started to warm up the brisk morning air. Apprentice architects, quarry engineers and a transportation expert unroll papyrus, on which site drawings are meticulously drawn, and place it on the table for the ensuing discussion. Chephren's pyramid was to be built next to its predecessor, the Great Pyramid, on the western bank of the Nile. Blocks of hewn stone with bows pointing into the wind. "Mind you," said McCauley, "these yardangs are not carved of soft silt or sandstone, but incised in hard, crystalline limestone."

Imhotep did. I am sure our friend the mover can find roads about the *irr*, I will speak to Pharaoh about this."

What was the streamlined shape that the master architect spoke of? For clues to the original form of that elongate rock, we go back to the close of the 19th century, and journey into the desolate wastelands of central Asia. The tour guide is a rugged Swedish explorer named Sven Hedin. For nearly 25 years, starting in about 1890, he roamed the virtually unknown lands of the Asian interior.

In the rocky desert near Lop Nur at the east end of the Taklimakan Desert, he ran into a landscape that was unknown to him: endless numbers of ridges arranged in parallel rows with gullies in between. His guides called the ridges *yardangs*, from the Turkic word *yar* meaning steep bank.

"With amazing regularity and without the slightest interruption," Hedin wrote in 1905, "this dry clay soil is furrowed throughout by pretty deep gullies, which separate the *yardangs* one from another. The only variety they present arises out of the consistency of the surface, that is to say, out of the varying resistance which it has offered to the corrosive, abrading force of the wind.... Each ridge was broken off pretty abruptly on the north-east, but had a gentle slope toward the south-west."

Yardangs became a topic of investigation by three of my colleagues and fellow desert travelers — Carol S. Breed, Maurice J. Grolier and John F. McCauley of the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona. Their measurements and observations of yardangs in deserts around the world indicate that the critical morphological characteristic of a yardang, streamlined by the wind, is that its length greatly exceeds its width, by a ratio of about three to one or more.

Many such yardangs exist in the Western Desert of Egypt. In fact, one of the largest fields may be that north and east of the Kharga Oasis, where the wind-carved hills extend for hundreds of miles. The hills look like inverted boat hulls with bows pointing into the wind. "Mind you," said McCauley, "these yardangs are not carved of soft silt or sandstone, but incised in hard, crystalline limestone."

Carved by the wind

What do yardangs have to do with the Great Sphinx of Giza? Breed, Grolier and McCauley agree that the Sphinx was fashioned from a hillock of limestone that had already been streamlined by the wind.

You may think that the distinctive shape of the Sphinx must be quite different from a wind-eroded knoll of rock. Not true. As early as 1909 the British geologist H.J.L. Beadnell described in the Kharga depression "thousands of isolated hummocks, disposed with their longer axes parallel and in the direction of the prevailing north winds." These same structures were described in 1924 as *spinxlike* by the German geomorphologist Johannes Walther. Furthermore, in 1939 the British explorer Ralph Bagold characterized similar forms

Randa Habib's CORNER

If the cap fits, wear it!

I've already mentioned in this corner the state of the airport and its doubtful cleanliness. I hope that with the new Queen Alia Airport, which is expected to be operating soon, we will have no reason to complain.

However, an incident I witnessed last week drew my attention to another problem at the airport.

As the passengers were heading to their flight gate, a foreign woman, whose handbag had already been security-checked, went straight to the counter where an air hostess was checking the boarding cards. There a gentleman wearing civilian clothes, holding an open bag, said a few words in Arabic to her.

The foreign woman, not understanding, handed her boarding card to the hostess. The man repeated what he was saying. The lady looked at him without understanding. He then pointed to the handbag she was carrying.

Surprised, the lady looked at the passenger behind her, who explained to her that the man was from security and wanted to check her handbag.

Although we know that the checking done by security staff is for our protection, and that we should all feel relieved that these security measures are carried out so carefully, this incident nevertheless leads me to request that security staff make themselves known by wearing a uniform or a badge. This would avoid any misunderstandings.

The same applies to customs staff. Are we supposed to recognise these gentlemen by the piece of chalk they are holding, or is their presence behind the counter enough for us to guess their function?

It would be more normal and proper for our customs staff to wear uniforms, which will allow people visiting Jordan for the first time to know immediately who they are.

more rock from its sides. The further west they went, the deeper they had to dig in the pyramid hill. The resulting moat was later filled by blown sand after years of neglect when civilization in Egypt declined. Most of the "addition" to the natural form remained buried until unearthed in 1926.

One writer has even suggested that in addition to decorating the head and shaping the paws, the ancients engineered the Sphinx to make it useable as a geodetic marker and that the Sphinx once had an obelisk between its paws whose shadow could be used to compute the Earth's circumference.

Today, the Sphinx is showing signs of old age; part of its surface is slowly wasting away. One reason may be the unusual rise of the water table.

"As we can trace this to the Aswan High Dam," says Bahay Issawi. "The enormous Lake Nasser and the year-round irrigation of crop fields has caused a dangerous rise of water levels throughout the country."

As water seeps through the porous limestone rock of the Sphinx, it brings with it salts in solution that expand as they crystallise at the surface, flaking off bits of the ancient Sphinx.

This is perhaps ironic. If the Sphinx is a symbol of the ancients' understanding of the environment, a monument in harmony with nature, then it is now being adversely affected by a modern symbol of our control of nature. In our rush to "develop" the earth, we may neglect to learn valuable lessons from what the ancients left for us, sometimes carved in eternal rock.

-- Smithsonian magazine

The author, formerly scientific adviser to the late Egyptian President Sadat, trained the Apollo Space Programme astronauts in geological observation techniques. An exclusive interview with Dr. Al Baz will appear in tomorrow's *Jordan Times*.

The Sphinx, one of the world's most famous monuments, may be essentially natural



A natural eroded outcrop at the Farafra Oasis resembles the Sphinx

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 ... Karim's Caravans
18:10 ... Children's Programme
18:30 ... Muppet Show
18:45 ... Sport
19:20 ... Programmes Review
19:30 ... Armed Forces Programme
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Arabic Series
21:30 ... Special Programmes
22:00 ... Arabic Varieties
22:30 ... Panel Discussion
23:05 ... News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 ... French Programme
19:30 ... News in French
20:30 ... News in Hebrew
21:30 ... Comedy, The Other Art
21:30 ... One Hundred Great Paintings
21:30 ... Documentary: Hard choices — boy or girl, should the choice be ours?
22:00 ... News in English
22:15 ... The Agatha Christie Hour: The Red Signal

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 95 MHz, SW
a party on 9500 KHz, SW
17:30 ... Morning Show
18:00 ... News Summary
18:30 ... Pop Session
19:00 ... News Summary
19:30 ... News Bulletin
19:45 ... Picnic Time Concert Hour
19:45 ... News Summary
19:45 ... Instrumental Old Favourites
19:45 ... First Spin
19:45 ... News Summary
19:45 ... Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
19:45 ... Newscast
19:45 ... Date with a Star
19:45 ... Evening Show
19:45 ... News Summary
19:45 ... News Summary
19:45 ... News Headlines

VOICE OF AMERICA
KHZ 1260, 5965, 7206, 13265, 11725
05:00 Daybreak 06:00 The Breakfast Show, 17:45 News Roundup, Reports, Automation, News Summary 17:45 VOA Magazine Show, America, Science, Literature, Letters 18:00 Special English and Technology Report 18:15 Feature: This is America 18:30 Music USA: Standards 19:00 News Roundup 19:30 Dateline 20:00 Special English News 20:10 Science and Technology 20:15 This is America 20:30 Music USA: Standards 21:00 News Roundup 21:30 VOA Magazine Show 22:00 Special English News 22:10 Science and Technology 22:15 Music USA: Jazz 23:00 VOA Magazine Show 23:15 Letters from London 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Beacon 06:45 Letter from London 06:45

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION
* Landscapes Beyond the Periphery, at the American Centre.
FILM
* The Conversation, starring Gene Hackman, at the American Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lweibdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeissani, 663249.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre tel. 41520
British Council tel. 34474
French Cultural Centre 34099
Goethe Institute 41903
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hayat Cultural Centre 665195
Amman Youth City 667181
Y.W.M.A. 41793
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department of Amman Airport, tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA) Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Agaba (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ) Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ) Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Kuwait (RJ) Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ) Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Beirut (KAC) Beirut (KAC)
14:20 Moscow (SU) Moscow (SU)
14:35 Kuwait (KAC) Kuwait (KAC)
15:30 Tunis, Athens (TJ) Tunis, Athens (TJ)
15:35 Jeddah, Medina (SM) Jeddah, Medina (SM)
16:30 Bahrain (RJ) Bahrain (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Athens (GF) Athens (GF)
19:30 Cairo (RJ) Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Baghdad (RJ) Baghdad (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ) Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Cairo (RJ) Cairo (RJ)

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club, Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club, Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club, Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Royal Club, Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES

05:14 Fajr
06:37 (Sawm) Shuruf
11:46 Dhuhr
14:36 'Asr
16:57 Maghrib
18:20 Isha

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SPORTS

Gaelic fire and Gallic skill come in handy

Ireland, France come out well in Rugby Union Championship

LONDON (R) — Gaelic fire and Gallic skill gave Ireland and France ideal starts to this year's five nations' Rugby Union Championship which began at Edinburgh's Murrayfield and London's Twickenham Saturday.

Champions Ireland withstood a late charge from Scotland to run out 15-13 winners in a thrilling encounter while France comprehensively outplayed England 19-15, scoring three tries to none.

The Irish forwards convincingly allayed their supporters' fears that they could be over the hill with a vigorous and aggressive display. Donal Lenihan completely dominated the lineouts and the back row of Fergus Slattery, John O'Driscoll and Willie Duggan was superb.

Ollie Campbell gave another immaculate exhibition of flyhalf play, scoring all but four of Ireland's points, while Hugo MacNeill emphasised his claims to a place in the lions team to tour New Zealand this year with a flawless game at fullback.

Scotland has surprise in store for everybody

But Scotland, badly weakened by the absence through injury of flyhalf John Rutherford and fullback Andy Irvine, almost pulled off what would have been a memorable victory.

Ireland scored all their points in the first half and went into the interval with what looked a fairly safe 11-point lead.

However, in the second half Ireland were not able to add to their tally while Irvine's replacement Peter Dods kicked two penalties and Jim Renwick drop-kicked a goal as the Scots came tantalisingly close to repeating their home win over the Irish two years ago.

CHINESE TRADE GROUP VISITING JORDAN

A Chinese Group, representing the International Trade Association of the Republic of China, is scheduled to visit Jordan for five days within their Middle East tour. Their purpose is to meet Jordanian businessmen, merchants and importers to promote trade relationship between Taiwan (R.O.C) and Jordan. They arrive in Amman on Jan. 16th and will stay at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Jabal Amman, (Tel. 41361). On the 17th, they will hold a one-day Taiwan Products Display at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel between 15:00 - 20:00 hours. Display samples include:

"Textile and garments; electrics & electronics; transportation equipment; hardware, handtools, garden tools, bolts & nuts; all kind of footware & socks, army badges, hats, bags, tyres; toys, gifts, children vehicles, desk set, purse, pen watch; cast acrylic sheet; furniture, fishing nets; twine, rope; measuring tape and various kind of adhesive tapes; plastic goods & PVC table cloth; baby products; kitchenware, tableware, sink set; and sundries."

There will be excellent opportunities to make big deals and profitable contracts. For appointments please contact either tel. 41530 or 41361 in the morning.

The embassy of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia announces with profound sorrow that Vice-President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and member of the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Dr. Vladimir Bakaric, passed away in Zagreb on Jan. 16.

The register of condolences will be open at the embassy in Shmeisani, near the Ministry of Trade and Industry on Jan. 18 and 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Kicking apart. Dods had an unhappy match in the blustery conditions, missing the ball completely twice.

France looked a team of rare calibre when they overcame a lack-lustre England side in a bruising clash at Twickenham.

The French took control of the forward battle in both scrums and lineouts and played with more imagination and dash in the backs.

France suffers from regular bouts of clumsiness

But they would not have been France if they had not shown the inexplicable lapses in concentration and application that have dogged their play through the years.

The sequence leading to England flyhalf Les Cusworth's dropped goal was a case in point.

Dusty Hare, who kicked 12 of England's points, attempted a 50-metre kick which was clearly dipping under the bar.

That was not how it appeared to Hare's opposite number. French fullback Serge Blanco, who leaped like a soccer goalkeeper and punched the ball forward.

England gratefully accepted the resulting scrum, leaving Cusworth with the easiest of drop goals.

The French goal kicking was also dismal, with Didier Camberabero succeeding with only one shot in five as well as missing with two dropped goal kicks.

Kicking apart, France were superior in all departments with the remarkable 34-year-old prop Robert Paparemborde completely overshadowing Colin Smart as well as picking up his eighth international try.

Australia wins 7-wicket victory over English side

BRISBANE (R) — Australia, so often the pupils of one-day cricket, were the masters here Sunday with a sweeping seven-wicket win over England which maintained their unbeaten record in the World Series Cup.

Australia, who have now won their first three games in the triangular tournament, dismissed England for 182 in 46.4 overs and England for 182 in 46.4 overs and 184 for three with nine overs to spare.

The victory kept Australia at the top of the standings with six points. New Zealand have two from three matches and England two from four.

England again crumpled against the fast bowlers who played a key role in Australia's 2-1 win in the recent Ashes series, and the home country sealed success with an unfinished fourth wicket stand of 86 between David Hookes and Allan Border.

Border made 30 not out in 36 deliveries while fellow left-hander Hookes scored an unbeaten 54 in 61 minutes and completed victory in spectacular style by lashing fast bowler Bob Willis for 22 in one over.

England, whose first cup win came in Saturday's match here with New Zealand, produced another disappointing batting display in which a gritty 57 by top scorer Derek Randall was the only notable feature.

Randall and Border (29) shared a fifth wicket stand of 57 after the first four wickets fell for 71, but once they were parted the lower order swiftly subsided.

David Gower, who hit superb centuries in the previous two games, made only 22 this time.

Hookes hit the England captain's first two deliveries for four, did not score from the third but struck the next for six over mid-wicket and hammered the last two for four.

The Hookes-Border partnership came after all-rounder Ian Botham took all the wickets which fell to make the Australians 98 for three.

Botham had Kepler Wessels caught behind by Ian Gould for 19 after an opening stand of 41 with John Dyson, who went on to make 40 before he and skipper Greg Chappell (30) fell in rapid succession to Botham.

Botham, ranked number one in the world, needed only 65 minutes to defeat the third-seeded Austin.

Seventh-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany will oppose Navratilova in the final for the second time in seven days after cruising past her fellow countrywoman Eva Pfaff 7-5, 6-1.

Navratilova's victory was her 9th in 102 matches and she has won 16 of her last 19 tournaments.

She defeated Hanika 6-1, 6-1 in a 44-minute rout in Washington last week.

Austin, who lost her serve twice in each set, reached break point just once in the entire match and failed to win a single point on Navratilova's serve in the first set.

The 21-year-old Pfaff was in her first major tournament semifinal and to go this far she had to win three three-set matches. The fatigue took its toll against Hanika, two years her senior.

Hanika, ranked 10th, broke three times in the second set, winning the last six games. She admitted that Navratilova would be a much stiffer challenge.

"I must do something different," she said of the final. "I was missing everything that night (in Washington). I had a bad evening, but this is another day."

Wicketkeeper David Murray joins West Indian rebels in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The rebel West Indian cricketers, heartened by an exciting victory over Western province in their first tour match in South Africa Saturday, will include wicketkeeper David Murray in their side for Monday's one-day match against Border.

Murray, who arrived here late Saturday night from Australia, steps straight into action because Emmerson Trotman injured a finger playing wicket against Western province, tour Captain Lawrence Rowe told reporters Sunday.

But Rowe said he could not confirm whether Barbadians Malcolm Marshall, Desmond Haynes and Hartley Alleyne would still join the team.

"I think Hartley will get here but I am not so sure about Desmond Haynes and Malcolm Marshall anymore. We are working on getting some replacements, but I can't tell you anything definite yet," he said.

"We are going to get more injuries—we know that. It's important that we have good players to step in when that happens."

Rowe said the team to face Border in the Indian Ocean city of East London would be selected from: Richard Austin, Alvin Greenidge, David Murray, Lawrence Rowe, Everton Matius, Collis King, Franklin Stephenson, Sylvester Clarke, Bernard Julien, Derek Parry, Ezra Moseley, and Colin Croft.

All players banned for life

All players taking part in the tour have been banned from the game for life by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC).

Monday's one-day limited overs match against Border is expected to be one of the easiest of the tour for the visitors. Border are a minor provincial side featuring none of the big names of South African cricket.

The touring side have not yet announced their team to face Border

but it seems certain that all-rounder Bernard Julien, who did not play Saturday, will be in the team with the likelihood of tour manager Albert Padmore and the team's liaison officer Gregory Armstrong also playing.

Former West Indies Captain Alvin Kallicharran is currently playing a provincial league match for Transvaal and will join the touring team after that finishes.

The Border line-up is: Richard Kent, Gary Gower, Rodney Ontong, Ivor Foulkes, Errol Lachlan, Greg Hayes, Gavin Fraser, Ray Ranger (captain), Mike Ballantyne, Dirkie Scott, Graham Puhul.

Meanwhile, the South African selectors have appointed Peter Kirsten as captain for the series of two four-day matches and six one-day games.

Kirsten, skipper of Western province, captained the South African side during the recent tour here by a rebel Sri Lankan team.

The South African side to play in the first four-day game beginning in Cape Town on Friday was also announced.

S.Africa appoints Peter Kirsten as captain

The team is: Jimmy Cook, Barry Richards, Peter Kirsten, Graeme Pollock, Clive Rice, Kevin McKenzie, Alan Kourie, Garth Le Roux, Ray Jennings, Vincent van der Bijl, Stephen Jefferies.

The side shows two changes from the one which easily defeated the Sri Lankan XI. Opener Richards replaces Lawrence Seeff, who is 12th man, and McKenzie takes the place of all-rounder Adrian Kuiper.

Richards has missed several matches this season because of injury and his fitness is still suspect, while Seeff has had an unhappy time with the bat recently and was dismissed for no score in the one-day match against the West Indian XI Saturday.

10 solo yachtsmen head towards sailors' graveyard in unpromising weather

SYDNEY (R) — Ten solo yachtsmen set off in strong winds Sunday towards the sailors' graveyard, Cape Horn, at the start of the third stage of a round-the-world race.

They are survivors of the longest and toughest endurance race which began on Aug. 28 at Newport, Rhode Island, in the United States, and will finish there in May after they have circled the globe via Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

Huge seas, broken masts, steering problems and a crash on to rocks have reduced the field of 17 starters to 11 by the 21,000-kilometre half-way mark.

Czech defector still 50 kilometres away

The last man, Czechoslovak defector Richard Konkolski, was still 50 kilometres from Sydney on the second leg as the other 10 boats were leaving for Rio.

Frenchman Philippe Jeantot, in Credit Agricole, leads on handicap from South African Bertie Reed, in Alteach Voortrekker, and another Frenchman, Jacques de Roux, in Skoien III.

The yachtsmen have been arriving in Sydney harbour over the past three weeks telling frightening tales of near drownings and long periods without sleep.

Cape Horn is the next major peril. They have to round it as close as possible to take advantage of currents on the closing stages of the 8,250-mile leg to Rio which is expected to take the leaders about 50 days.

Japan's Yukoh Tada sat on Sydney quay stitching a spare sail with a sewing machine just before the start of Sunday's leg.

Tada, 52, a Zen Buddhist who drove taxis for 10 years until taking to the sea, has a sloop crammed with the latest Japanese gadgetry including a radar scanner and two cameras, one pointing to the sea and the other to the cabin, to record his voyage.

Youngest competitor speechless from exhaustion

The youngest man left in the race is 29-year-old Briton Richard Broadhead, who arrived in Sydney nearly speechless from fatigue after problems with his self-steering gear.

Communication trouble gave him only three day's radio contact with land during his 50-day journey from Cape Town. Once he clung grimly to the sailcloth to avoid being swept overboard.

The oldest is Francis Stokes, 56, of the United States, in the sloop Moonshine. He rescued companion Tony Lush, who cannot swim, from the sinking ketch Lady Pepperell about 2,800 kilometres from Cape Town.

Briton Desmond Hampton dropped out of the race after his Gipsy Moth V hit rocks off New South Wales on Dec. 17.

The yachtsmen have to make radio contact with the organisers twice a day if possible and their positions are charted closely.

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APL 11-15-15

JORDAN TIMES

ECONOMY

European Currency Unit gains

BRUSSELS (R) — An artificial currency invented by the European Common Market to act as an official unit of account between member countries is being increasingly used by private investors.

The European Currency Unit (ECU), based on a basket of nine Common Market currencies and now worth about one dollar, is seen by its supporters as the future common money of Europe.

More and more investors already regard the ECU, introduced in 1979, as a hedge against devaluation of national currencies.

In Belgium and Luxembourg, which have weak currencies, its private use has grown rapidly in the last two years, and banking officials expect a similarly fast rise in Italy and France.

Kreditbank, one of Belgium's leading banks, says the ECU now comes fourth after the dollar, the West German mark and the guinea.

In determining the ECU's

value, the West German mark accounts for more than one third, the French franc for 17.4 per cent, the pound for 15.8 per cent and at the bottom of the list, the Irish punt for 1.1, per cent.

The ECU's official use has not changed much since 1979, as further European monetary integration has been stalled by member states' differing economic performance.

Apart from acting as a unit of account, it is also used by central banks as a reserve and payment currency.

The banks deposit 20 per cent of their gold and dollar reserves and are credited in ECUs.

These deposits currently total about 42 billion ECUs.

At the Kreditbank, private ECU deposits have grown sixfold in the last two years, and a spokesman said if the same was true at other European banks, overall deposits would total about three billion ECUs.

Belgian banks treat ECU accounts as foreign currency accounts, requiring a \$10,000 minimum.

But in Luxembourg a private bank, Le Credit European, has gone one step further by allowing customers to open an ECU saving book with no minimum required.

"Results have gone beyond our expectations," a spokesman said.

The volume of ECU bond issues, used by companies or countries to raise money, rose dramatically from 190 million in 1981 to 1.8 billion ECUs at the end of 1982, with borrowers including Canadian and U.S. institutions.

Another landmark in the life of the ECU has been its newly-

gained status as a foreign currency.

In Italy it was recognised as a foreign currency in August 1981 and is officially quoted on exchange markets.

Belgium, France and Luxembourg followed suit last year while in the Netherlands, Denmark, Britain and Ireland the ECU has de facto official status.

The important exception is West Germany.

It regards the ECU partly as a foreign currency and partly as a German mark and considers ECU deals as index-linked German mark contracts, which are prohibited by law.

This explains why private use of the ECU is very limited there.

Another drawback, Britain's continuing reluctance to bring the pound sterling fully into the European Monetary System, which fixes the exchange values of member currencies.

Despite these problems, Belgian bankers see possibilities of further growth for the ECU, particularly if intra-Community trade is invoiced and paid for in ECUs.

They also believe that in coming years, when unrest on exchange markets is likely to continue, the ECU will retain its relative stability.

But the bankers do not foresee in the near future daily use of the ECU in the form of cheques, banknotes or coins.

One French monetary expert suggested member states issue an ECU coin to symbolise commitment to eventual monetary union.

The idea has aroused scepticism in Brussels.

OPEC may cut oil prices

BAHRAIN (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) obeying its pricing and production agreements may jointly cut their oil prices unless members breaking the rules fall into line. Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi said Sunday.

The last chance for OPEC members now undercutting the official reference price of \$34 a barrel to conform may come at an emergency OPEC meeting proposed for Jan. 23 in Geneva, he told reporters.

Mr. Taqi said seven OPEC ministers agreed to the Geneva meeting during overnight crisis talks here and the suggestion would be put to the other oil officials immediately.

Industry analysts said Iran and

Indonesia and Nigeria joined the ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for emergency talks on defending prices in the shrunken world oil market.

Asked if the proposed Jan. 23 meeting would be the last chance for OPEC states to obey the rules and protect OPEC unity, Mr. Taqi said: "It could be."

If no agreement was reached, countries obeying the rules would have to protect their interests, he said, adding: "Much as we dislike price discounting and cuts that might be one of the decisions taken if everything else fails."

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said he believed the chances of OPEC reaching a production agreement were now improved.

"We are very anxious to reach a settlement," he told reporters.

Asked if he agreed it might be the last chance to restore unity within OPEC, he added: "I don't believe in last chances. But I think everyone is now more aware of the consequences of not agreeing."

Sheikh Ali said he hoped OPEC members would be prepared to give ground on production, but said the Gulf states had already gone far enough in cutting output to defend OPEC prices.

Major Gulf producers such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia -- the world's biggest oil exporter -- have cut output sharply in an effort to defend prices in the face of depressed demand and rising sales by other producers both within and outside OPEC.

Reagan endorses retirement plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Saturday night endorsed a compromise plan designed to save the U.S. social security pension system from bankruptcy.

The plan, which was also backed by leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties in Congress, calls for higher payroll taxes next year and a six-month delay in increasing cost-of-living benefits.

It was aimed at eliminating a shortfall of \$150 billion to \$200 billion in the social security system's retirement and disability trust funds over the next seven years.

The plan contains elements he and congressional leaders would have found unacceptable had they not been part of an overall package, he said.

But he said he would back the plan in the interests of solving the

problem with the pension system promptly.

Under the plan, an increase in the payroll tax scheduled for 1985 would be implemented next year.

To ease part of the burden, workers would be allowed to offset the higher 1984 rate with a credit on their income taxes.

Annual cost-of-living increases in benefits would be delayed from July 1, 1983, to Jan. 1, 1984 and

then permanently paid on January each year.

For the first time in the 47-year history of the U.S. social security system, pensioners with outside sources of income would be taxed on half of their monthly benefits.

The tax would apply to individuals earning more than \$20,000 a year and married couples earning more than \$25,000 a year.

Kuwaiti official to visit Paris

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Minister for Finance and Planning Mr. Abdul Latif Al Hamad will visit France soon for talks on bilateral cooperation in the economic and investment fields. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mr. Abdulaziz Hussein said Sunday.

Mr. Hussein denied press reports which said that Kuwait was going to give France a \$1 billion loan.

"Any decision on such a loan would need the approval of the national assembly (parliament) and we will not take any decision on the matter," he said.

Zambia agrees to IMF terms

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia, which devalued its currency last week and announced it would seek to reschedule its foreign debts, has apparently agreed to meet tough International Monetary Fund (IMF) terms for a loan crucial to its sagging economy.

The 20 per cent devaluation and the move to defer payment of its debts came as the Central African nation's copper-based economy, once the soundest in black Africa, began its eighth year of recession.

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank Geary

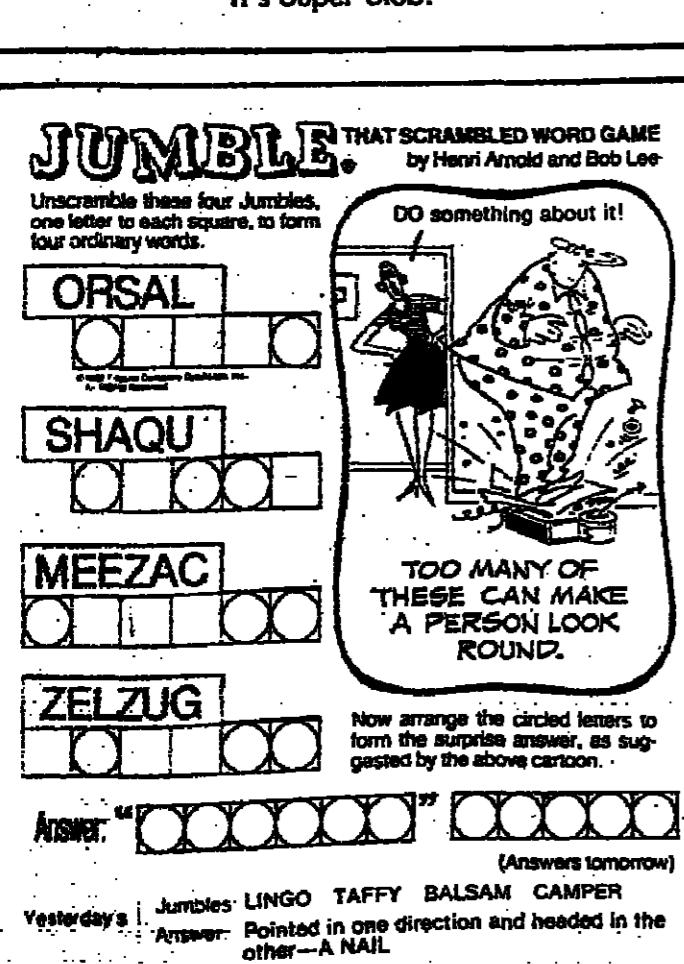
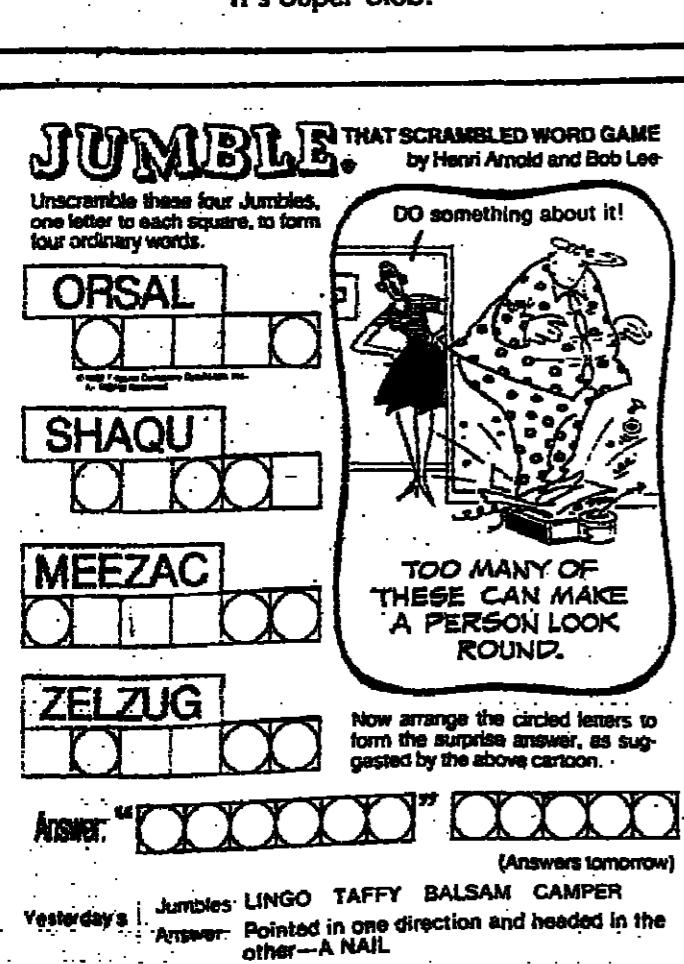
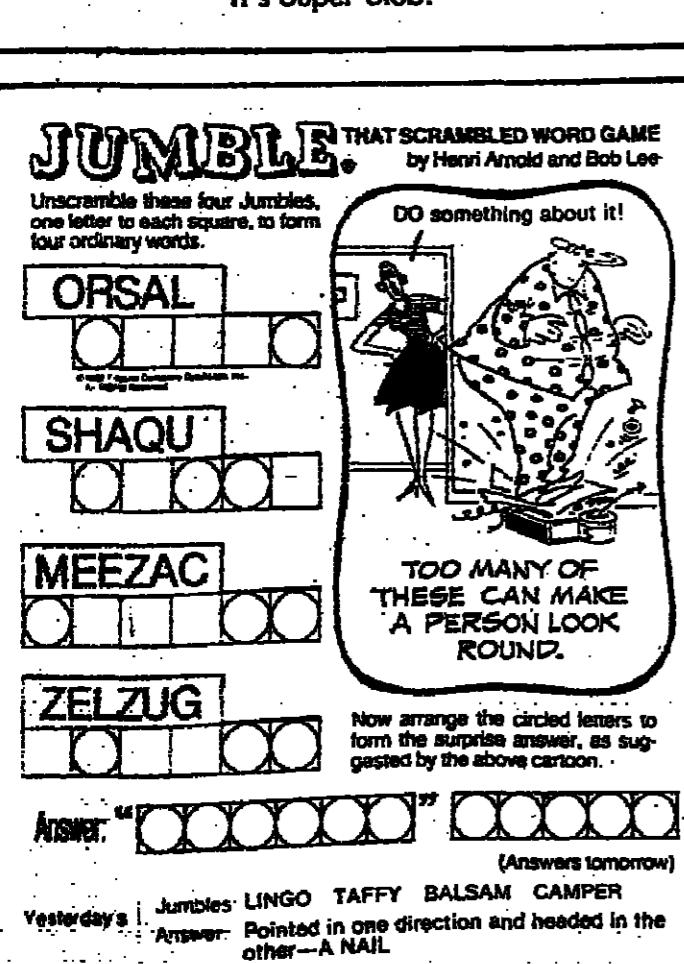
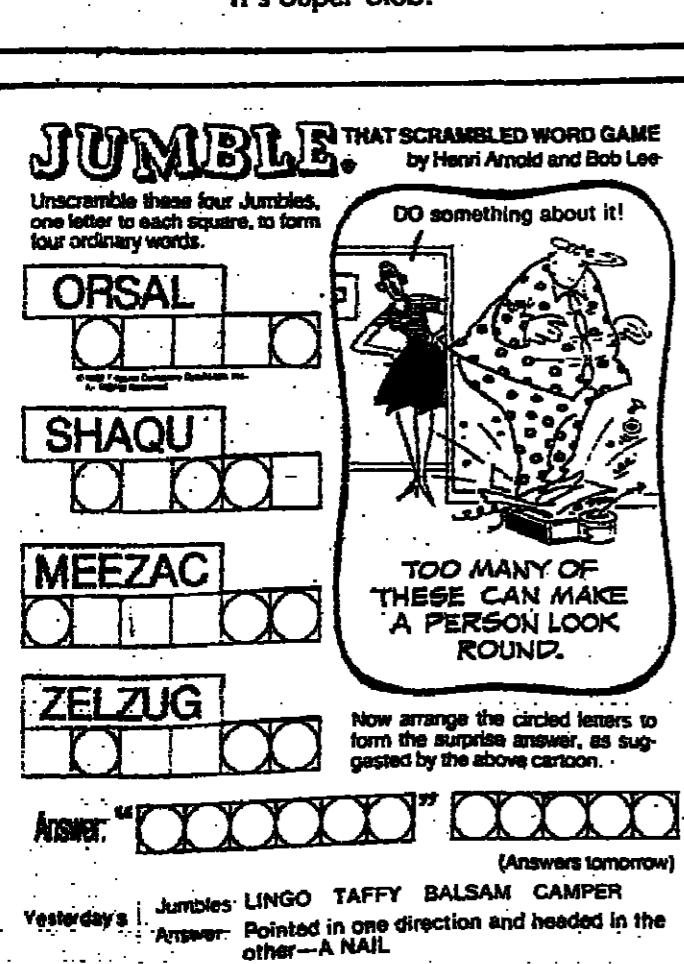
ACROSS	32 Greedy	59 Certain	25 Tag
1 Hood	34 Ramshackle	60 man	26 "— the King's Men"
5 Titled	37 Poet Walter	62 Labore	28 One of the senses
10 Fake	— Mare	63 English	29 Billing and cooling
14 Samoan port	38 Poor grade	64 Social	30 Pitcher
15 Dodge	40 Dawdle	gatherings	31 — Boleyn
16 Cut off	42 Flush	65 Sea bird	32 Sums up
17 Very chummy	44 Only	66 Tempest	33 Face
19 To shelter	45 Cunning	67 Jane —	covering
20 Pipe elbow	46 Betray	47 Nuttall	35 Political figure from Arizona
21 "Baked in —"	47 Nuttall	call	36 Friend
22 Regale	49 "War is —"	DOWN	41 River in Belgium
23 Sign	50 Drifts	1 Outer	42 Andrea — Sato
25 Night on the town	52 Purport	garment	43 End of a ship's spar
27 Close	55 Gem	2 Ring gems	48 Notice
28 Bargain	56 Unlock	3 Without	49 Ms. Lena —
29 desire	57 to poets	4 Chance	50 Small drum
30 Meadow	58 State	4 Vegas	51 Javelin
	positively	5 City in R.I.	52 Record
		6 Serve	53 Be it — so humble"
		7 Masculine	54 Advertising sign
		8 McMahon and Asner	55 Oriental sport
		9 African ruler	56 Gaelic
		10 Flash	57 Rds.
		11 American revolutionary hero	60 Seven
		12 Region	61 Native suff.
		13 Hold a session	
		18 Cabbage tree	
		22 Family — Reward for bravery	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

VAULT	BABY	59
DELIRIO	ARIOSA	Certain
WASPISH	TIEBACK	underwater
IST	SPECTER	man
SHUN	DON	— Mare
PERON	VEN	Labore
RETIRED	HOREB	English
COUDON	TOLEDOS	dynasty
UNIONS	DOLY DORIS	gatherings
MILLS	ARRAY	64 Social
WILDE	PERISSER	65 Sea bird
RESESSES	FERNIER	66 Tempest
MATTY	SNAPS	67 Jane —

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WORLD

Cosmos 1402 re-entry expected Jan. 24

Canada gets ready to collect satellite debris

OTTAWA (R) — Canada has drawn up plans for a full-scale search operation in case a second Soviet nuclear-powered satellite crashes to earth in its frozen northern wastelands.

Canadian officials expect the disabled Cosmos 1402 satellite to re-enter the earth's atmosphere on Jan. 24, five years after a similar Soviet satellite disintegrated over Canada scattering radioactive debris over the country's northwest territories.

A Soviet scientist said Saturday

that the Cosmos 1402's fuel core had separated from its main reactor and would enter the earth's atmosphere in mid-February but would burn up before landing and pose no serious danger.

The 1978 clean-up operation, involving 1,200 military personnel and scores of civilians, cost six million Canadian dollars (\$7.4 million) and the Soviet Union agreed to foot only half of the bill.

Three per cent chance

There is only a three per cent chance of the Cosmos 1402 crashing over Canada but officials have drawn up major contingency plans.

Hercules aircraft equipped with

Search intensifies for Basque kidnap victim as deadline nears

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — Family and police Sunday intensified efforts to secure the release of the latest Basque kidnap victim less than 24 hours before a deadline for his death.

A spokesman for the Echeverria family, owners of a huge foundry business, said they were ready to pay the \$1.3 million ransom demanded by the kidnappers for their 21-year-old son Miguel Ignacio, who was grabbed from his home last Monday.

The kidnappers said they would kill their hostage if the ransom was not paid within seven days.

But with the deadline approaching, the Echeverria family spokesman said all efforts to contact the kidnappers had so far failed.

Spanish police said they were convinced the kidnappers, two armed and masked men, were members of the political-military wing of the Basque separatist guerrilla organisation ETA. They discounted statements disclaiming ETA responsibility.

Police recalled that ETA had previously denied knowledge of kidnappings as part of a policy to create maximum confusion.

The family spokesman said

negotiators had been led on a false

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN

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Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ AKJ
♦ 742
♦ AJ1083
♦ 64

WEST EAST
♦ 974 ♦ 8653
♦ AJ108 ♦ 63
♦ 65 ♦ Q72
♦ 1072 ♦ QJ95

SOUTH
♦ Q102
♦ K95
♦ K94
♦ AK53

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦.

"Avoidance" is a highfalutin term for a simple play. All it means is keeping the danger hand off lead.

The auction was noteworthy for its brevity and its accuracy. Unfortunately, the play met only one of these criteria. It was brief, but hardly accurate.

Declarer won the opening lead with the king, cashed the king of diamonds and ran the nine. East took the queen and reverted to hearts, and the defenders raked in four heart tricks for a one-trick set.

Opponents of blood sports have

gamma-ray spectrometers will be sent up to pinpoint radiation remnants as soon as Cosmos crashes.

A defence ministry spokesman, giving details of Canada's preparations, said: "It is a tremendous undertaking. Civilian air traffic will have to be controlled during re-entry and there will also be intensive military flying in the area once it has landed.

"Last time we had to build a runway, camp and set up a small community of about 100 people in the middle of nowhere."

Canada was put on standby after monitoring reports from the North American aerospace headquarters in Colorado indicated that the nuclear-powered satellite had broken into three.

Boat attempt fails

Ottawa was advised after Soviet manoeuvres to boost Cosmos 1402 into a higher orbit failed: "If that had worked, it could have stayed up there for 500 to 1,000 years," the defence ministry spokesman said.

He said Jan. 24 was the likely date of re-entry and added: "It will only be six hours beforehand that we can get to predicting

"Life-threatening"

A U.S. Defence Department official asked if people would die if the core landed intact and they were too close to it, replied: "Absolutely. The intact fuel would be life-threatening at a few hundred metres."

Luck was on Canada's side in 1978 since the largest chunk of Cosmos 1402 was found on the barren edges of a frozen river hundreds of kilometres from civilization.

Boat attempt fails

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The Mail said the decision to rearm the farmers was taken when the commercial farmers' union met government security and military chief earlier this month.

White farmers rearm in Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — White farmers in black-ruled Zimbabwe's troubled Matabeleland are rearming and reactivating their Rhodesian war radio alarm systems for protection against rebels, a newspaper said Sunday.

The Sunday Mail reported the government was licensing and giving back to the province's farmers automatic weapons handed in during a disarmament campaign last year.

The newspaper quoted an unidentified senior State Department official as saying the agreement was "very faulty" and would not have been approved.

It said Mr. Rostow was admonished by national security adviser William Clark, in a memorandum to Secretary of State George Shultz, for exceeding his authority in both the Geneva compromise and a private

"Strategic arms deal was reached in '82"

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators reached informal agreement on limiting each side's medium-range missiles in Europe last July, but the accord was rejected by both Washington and Moscow, the New York Times reported.

Quoting senior U.S. officials, the Times said the private agreement by Paul Nitze and Yuri Kvitsinsky in Geneva led to a White House rebuke to Eugene Rostow, dismissed last week as director of the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency.

The newspaper quoted an unidentified senior State Department official as saying the agreement was "very faulty" and would not have been approved.

It said Mr. Rostow was admonished by national security adviser William Clark, in a memorandum to Secretary of State George Shultz, for exceeding his authority in both the Geneva compromise and a private

meeting he held in Vienna with the head of the Soviet delegation to the East-West talks on reduction of conventional forces.

In their informal accord, the newspaper said, Mr. Nitze and Mr. Kvitsinsky agreed that the number of Soviet medium-range missiles would be sharply reduced. Officials would not provide exact details, the Times said.

The Times said the Geneva and Vienna episodes were cited by Mr. Rostow's supporters and his critics as part of the reason for his dismissal last Wednesday on orders of President Reagan.

It said Mr. Rostow, on a trip to Europe, conferred with Mr. Nitze and they agreed that Mr. Reagan's approach of refraining from deploying U.S. missiles in Europe if the Soviet Union dismantled all its European-based intermediate missiles was not working. Both agreed Mr. Nitze should explore alternatives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan's popularity hits new low

NEW YORK (R) — Only 41 percent of Americans approve of President Reagan's performance half way through his term of office, according to an opinion poll published in the New York Times Sunday. This figure is considerably lower than the mid-term ratings for Mr. Reagan's four elected predecessors. The poll, taken in early December, showed the president's popularity was at its lowest level since he took office in Jan. 1981. The comparable figures for his predecessors, according to the poll, were: Jimmy Carter, 51 per cent; Richard Nixon, 52 per cent; John Kennedy, 76 per cent; Dwight Eisenhower, 69 per cent.

U.S. Senator raps El Salvador military

SAN SALVADOR (R) — An influential U.S. Senator said here that El Salvador's government had no chance of winning the war against left-wing guerrillas as long as the country's political factions continued their fighting. Christopher Dodd, a member of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, said El Salvador's deep political division had been highlighted once again by the recent mutiny of a northern garrison commander against Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia. He told a press conference at the U.S. embassy here that El Salvador was the scene of two battles—one pitting troops against left-wing guerrillas and the other involving the country's feuding factions.

S. Korean calls Seoul a dictatorship

WASHINGTON (R) — South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jung has described the South Korean government as a dictatorship and criticised the United States for supporting it. Mr. Kim, speaking through an interpreter at a Washington rally, asked his government to spare the lives of Kim Hyun-Jang and Moon Bu-Shik, who have been sentenced to death for setting fire to the American Cultural Centre in Pusan last March. "Saving these two men is more than saving just two human beings. It is saving the conscience of everybody who cherishes the freedom of Korea and the United States," he said.

China attacks Soviet policy in Afghanistan

PEKING (R) — China Sunday launched a fresh attack on Soviet policy in Afghanistan, two days after announcing that Chinese and Soviet officials would meet in Moscow in March for further talks on improving relations. The attack in the official Beijing Review was prompted by a TASS news agency statement on Dec. 31 that the Soviet Union would continue to defend Afghanistan against foreign armed intervention and hopes of a change in the country's economy.

In Tanzania, Mr. Zhao reaffirmed China's commitment to its most ambitious foreign aid project, the Tazara railway built with Chinese finance and labour between the Tanzanian port of Dar Es Salaam and Zambia's copperbelt.

China was the main backer of guerrillas led by Mr. Robert Mugabe, now prime minister, during the war against the white-dominated regime formerly in power in what was called Rhodesia.

The Soviet Union supported Mr. Mugabe's rival, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, and now has to work up to improve its ties with Mr. Mugabe's government.

During his visit Mr. Zhao signed a loan agreement for \$33 million to add to \$19 million already loaned free of interest.

Chinese sources praised Mr. Mugabe's policy of reconciliation with the nation's white minority, which still plays a major role in the country's economy.

Another successful stopover was in Zimbabwe, although the visit had a tragic start when five women were killed and more than 60 people injured when a welcoming crowd stampeded at the airport.

China was the main backer of guerrillas led by Mr. Robert Mugabe, now prime minister, during the war against the white-dominated regime formerly in power in what was called Rhodesia.

The Research Defence Union, which defends animal experiments, says some scientists' children were intimidated at school.

Most animal rights groups sympathise with the ALF's motives, but reject its methods.

Instead, they have set up the Animal Protection Alliance, an umbrella political pressure group against factory farming, laboratory experiments and trading in

animal life.

Richard Course, who represents the league against cruel sports, told Reuters that pressure to improve animal protection laws dating back to 1876 was bearing fruit.

In 1979 the three major British political parties had animal rights in their election manifestos for the first time he said.

Liberal leader David Steel told supporters after learning that one of the incendiary packages had been addressed to him that he was not surprised that animal welfare had emerged as a cause for radical protest.

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Zhao stays off controversy during African tour

NAIROBI (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang leaves Africa Monday after a month-long tour by many of the Soviet Union's top officials.

He has been trying to keep the tour a secret, but the Chinese government has been trying to keep the tour a secret.

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